Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 EA-07 /059 W

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R 011158Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5104 INFO USDA/WASHDC AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 10810

USDA FROM ACTING AGATT FOR FAS G&F DIV. (FCA & FMD) AND OGSM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, US, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN WHEAT EXPORTS/REPAYMENT OF USSR WHEAT LOAN

REF: A. STATE 175644, B. NEW DELHI 7926, C. NEW DELHI 7596

1. EMBASSY UNABLE TO CONFIRM LIKELY DESTINATION OF 1.5 MILLION METRIC TONS REPAYMENT IN KIND OF USSR WHEAT LOAN. PRESS HEADLINES DURING WEEK 25-29 JULY BELIE THE FACT THAT WHILE THE SOVIET TEAM RECENTLY IN-COUNTRY REPORTEDLY SIGNED NO FIRM CONTRACT, AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS REACHED TO ACCEPT REPAYMENT. SHIPMENTS EXPECTED AFTER SEPTEMBER 30 WITH TOTAL REPAYMENT TO BE EFFECTED WITHIN ONE YEAR. GO EXPECTED TO REPAY BULK OF LOAN IN HARD IMPORTED WHEATS BUT USSR EMBASSY CONFIRMS FACT THAT SOME SOFT INDIGENOUS WHEAT WILL CONSTITUTE AN AS YET UNDETERMINED PART OF THE TOTAL. GOI HAS AS SURED SOVIETS

QUALITY WILL BE EQUAL TO OR BETTER THAN ORIGINAL LOAN QUANTITIES. LATTER CONSIDERATIONS THE MAIN FOCUS OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS.

PRIVATE SOURCES REVEAL USSR DID RAISE THE SUBJECT OF THIRD COUNTRY DESTINATIONS (VIETNAM AND NOT CAMBODIA) IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH GOI. INASMUCH AS USSR EMBASSY CONTACTS UNWILLING TO OFFER CLARIFICATION AND GOI POSITION IS THAT DESTINATION NOT THEIR CONCERN ONE F.O. B. SHIPMENT EFFECTED (USSR TO CHARTER ALL SHIPMENTS), ACTION AND INFOR ADDRESSEES MAY BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO CONFIRM PROBABLE DESTINATIONS. THOUGH SEMANTICAL, GOI CONSIDERS THIS STRICTLY A REPAYMENT AND NOT AN EXPORT PER SE.

3. ALTHOUGH THE PATTERN CANNOT BE UNEQUIVOCALLY CONSTRUED AS
INDICATIVE OF LIKELY DESTINATIONS, LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT
SHIPMENTS TO BE EFFECTED FROM BOMBAY (700,000 MT), VISAKHAPATNAM
AND MADRAS (400,000 MT EACH).
GOHEEN

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